

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09397 01 OF 02 180503Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037341 180539Z /11

R 171906Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8813
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09397

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CG, BE, FR
SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON EXECUTIONS IN ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 2565.

1. FOR THE RECORD WE REPORT THE STEPS TAKEN IN PARIS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS MARCH 17 TO OBTAIN FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE TO THE GOZ ON THE SUBJECT OF THE EXECUTION OF THE CONVICTED COUP PLOTTERS. UPON RECEIPT OF A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AF/C DIRECTOR AT APPROXIMATELY 0015 PARIS TIME WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH QUAI DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS GEORGY, EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO HIM AND ASKED THAT INSTRUCTIONS BE SENT TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA TO CONSULT WITH HIS BELGIAN AND AMERICAN COLLEAGUES ON A JOINT DEMARCHE TO THE GOZ ASKING FOR RECONSIDERATION ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS OF THE IMMEDIATE EXECUTION OF THE ELEVEN CONVICTED COUP PLOTTERS. GEORGY WAS INITIALLY NEGATIVE SINCE HE FELT IT WAS TOO LATE TO TAKE ANY ACTION. HE FINALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, TO SEND THE INSTRUCTIONS TELEPHONICALLY.

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2. AT ABOUT 0130 WE WERE CALLED BY THE QUAI DUTY OFFICER WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR ROUSSI IN KINSHASA BUT THAT ROUSSI WAS UNAWARE OF ANY IMMINENT EXECUTIONS. HE THOUGHT THIS ODD SINCE HE HAD LUNCED WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER AND DINED WITH THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR MARCH 16. AFTER A FURTHER CALL TO THE DEPARTMENT (AF/C) WE WERE ABLE TO INFORM

THE DUTY OFFICER THAT THE NEWS OF THE IMMINENT EXECUTIONS HAD BEEN OBTAINED BY AMBASSADOR CUTLER LATE IN THE EVENING AND TELEPHONED TO WASHINGTON. WE INFORMED HIM ALSO THAT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE JOINT DEMARCHE HAD BEEN TELEGRAPHED TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY HIM SHORTLY. ON THE BASIS OF THIS HE SAID THAT HE WOULD AGAIN CALL AMBASSADOR ROUSSE AND INSTRUCT HIM TO COORDINATE ON A DEMARCHE.

3. AT ABOUT 0245 THE QUAI DUTY OFFICER CALLED BACK TO INFORM US THAT HE HAD AGAIN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR ROUSSE WHO HAD CONTACTED HIS BELGIAN AND AMERICAN COLLEAGUES, NEITHER OF WHOM HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS. GIVEN THE LATE HOUR AND THE PRESS OF TIME BEFORE THE EXECUTIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD GONE AHEAD AND MADE A UNILATERAL DEMARCHE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENCY WHO ASSURED

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8814
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09397

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HIM THAT HIS HUMANITARIAN APPEAL IN THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC WOULD BE PASSED ON TO MOBUTU AS SOON AS THIS WAS PRACTICAL.

4. AT 1100 MARCH 17 AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GEORGY CALLED TO INFORM US OF THE ACTION WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN AND ALSO TO COMPLAIN THAT DESPITE OUR REQUEST FOR A JOINT DEMARCHE, OUR AMBASSADOR AND THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME

AND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN PUT IN THE POSITION OF MAKING A UNILATERAL DEMARCHE. GEORGY SPOKE OF A SENSE OF HAVING BEEN "MANIPULATED" INTO AN AWKWARD POSITION. WE ASSURED HIM THAT OUR INTENTION WAS THAT THERE BE A TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE. IF OUR AMBASSADOR WAS UNINSTRUCTED AT THE TIME THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR FELT THAT HE MUST ACT, THIS WAS PURELY THE RESULT OF TECHNICAL FACTORS AND NOT INTENTIONAL. WE TOLD HIM THAT THE TELEGRAM OF INSTRUCTIONS HAD NOT ARRIVED IN PARIS UNTIL AFTER 0230 AND THAT WE HAD BEEN ACTING IN GOOD FAITH IN PROCEEDING ON TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMARCHE. GEORGY SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE "PRUDENT" THE NEXT TIME WE CAME TO
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HIM WITH THIS TYPE OF URGENT REQUEST.

5. WE TRUST THAT GEORGY'S ANNOYANCE WILL PASS. HE IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL OF THE QUAI'S MANY CONCERNS IN AFRICA AND HAS BEEN HEAVILY BURDENED OF LATE IN DEALING WITH FAST-BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN MANY PARTS OF THE CONTINENT. MOREOVER, WHILE H E CAN ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY HE SHARES THE GENERAL FRENCH PASSION FOR DOING THINGS IN AN ORDERLY AND DELIBERATE WAY.
HARTMAN

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